

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said method comprising:
 - receiving a communication directed to a called line from a calling line;
 - obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication;
 - obtaining a called line identification number for said communication;
 - looking for said calling line identification number in a data store to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and
 - terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising completing the call if the data associated with the calling line identification number does not indicate that calls to the called line are to be blocked.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising completing the call if the called line identification number indicates that the called line is an emergency call line.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of at least one of a plurality of called line identification numbers of calls which are to be blocked.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all long distance calls.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified called line identification numbers.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified area codes.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except local calls.

11. (Original) A method of activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising:

receiving from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line a predetermined access code corresponding to an outgoing call blocking service;
prompting a caller to provide data concerning calls to be blocked;
receiving the provided data; and
storing said data in a data store associated with the call blocking service.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
prompting the caller for an authorization code; and
comparing the received authorization code with a stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising activating the service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising not activating the service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

15. (Original) A method of de-activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising:

receiving from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line a predetermined access code corresponding to an outgoing call blocking service;
prompting a caller for an authorization code;
retrieving a stored authorization code associated with said calling line identification number; and
comparing the received authorization code with the stored authorization code.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising deactivating the service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for the subscriber.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising not deactivating the service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization code for the subscriber.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising prompting the caller for an authorization code.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising storing said new authorization code in a database.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising prompting the caller for data concerning calls to be blocked.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
receiving said data; and
storing said data in a database.

22. (Original) A system for blocking a call between a calling line and a called line within a telecommunications network, comprising:
a service switching point office for receiving an out-going call request from the calling line to a called line;
a storage device for storing data concerning calls to be blocked; and

a controller for determining if data concerning a call to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller terminates the call if data concerning a call to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller completes the call if data concerning a call to the called line does not correspond to data concerning calls to be blocked.